**Mad Scientists and Mathematicians**

**Reflections**

**Lesson 1-Pedigrees**

1. What was your favorite part of the lesson?

* As the students compared hitchhiker’s thumb vs. straight thumbs and widow’s peak hairlines vs. straight hairlines, the students were totally engaged and ready to learn.
* Students were extremely excited about going home and investigating to find their dominant and recessive traits with their parents and siblings.
* Our students were super excited when they were able to create their own pedigree chart over their inherited traits.
* This lesson prompted higher order thinking questions which are very important in assessing student comprehension.
* The overall excitement of the students was the most favorable part of this lesson.

1. What worked well for the students?

* (5th grade teachers) The lessons and skills that were previously taught pertaining to inherited traits set the stage for additional learning.  Students were better able to understand further inherited traits. (i.e. dominant and recessive)They had previously completed an activity on inherited traits. The pedigree chart promoted a deeper understanding of the curriculum.
* (6th grade teachers) The personalization of this lesson was very important to the students. In some cases, students do not understand from the teacher. However, allowing them to work in cooperative learning groups helped some students to complete the task.

1. Why is this important?

* It was important to students not only because they could better understand why they may or may not resemble one parent. It also helped them to understand occurrences of genetic disorders, diseases, and illnesses.
* If you relate learning to real life experiences, learning takes on a new meaning.
* The personalization of this lesson takes the learning to a different level.

1. What will you do in the future to improve the chance of this happening again?

-Use manipulatives such as colored tiles to represent dominant and recessive traits.

-Allow students to work in cooperative learning groups.

-By making choices and researching to find lessons that can be directly related to the experiences of the students. It was relevant.

-Continue with the same order of steps in teaching this lesson.

-We can't wait to share this activity again with future students or as part of our year end review!!!